

Lab research produced evidence that sound waves can set off earthquakes. Acoustic triggering would explain a phenomenon in which seismic activity at locations hundreds and thousands of miles apart are linked. Higher-frequency waves that transmit much of an earthquake's energy from the epicenter are viewed as unlikely to initiate seismic activity at such distances. A proposal that low-frequency sound waves might possess this capability was initially met with considerable skepticism, but experiments now confirm that sound waves can—at least on a laboratory scale—trigger earthquakes.

Long-distance triggering of earthquakes  
by seismic sound waves confirmed